

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 PER-01 SSC-01 CPR-01

IO-10 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /104 W
----- 054225

R 170830Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3643

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

CSQMKG/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0014

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

VKUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 138

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 0725

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP PFOR US MR IS

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH

SUMMARY: PRESENTED CREDENTIALS TO MAUTANIAN PRESIDENT
MOKTAR OULD DADDAH IN SIMPLE BUT IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY
NOON APRIL 15. THERE WERE NO FORMAL SPEECHES OR
REMARKS. SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION CONCENTRATED ON
NATURE MAURITANIAN SOCIETY, MAURITANIAN NON-ALIGNMENT,
AND MIDDLE EAST. OULD DADDAH CALLED FOR US TO IMPOSE
SOLUTION ON ISRAEL. IN RESPONSE, I EMPHASIZED USG
CONVICTION THAT ONLY VIABLE SOLUTION IN MIDEAST IS
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NEGOTIATED COMPROMISE LEADING TO PERMANENT SETTLEMENT.

END SUMMARY.

1. IN BRIEF FORMAL CEREMONY IN ANTE-ROOM OUTSIDE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, I HANDED MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT MOKTAR OULD DADDAH LETTERS FROM PRESIDENT FORD RECALLING AMBASSADOR MURPHY AND ACCREDITING ME AS US AMBASSADOR TO GIRM. PRESIDENT, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER BRAHAM, DCM SHINN, AND I THEN MOVED TO PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE OFFICE FOR CORDIAL HALF HOUR INFORMAL DISCUSSION. OULD DADDAH COMMENTED ON GOOD STATE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, NOTING THAT SOLID BASE HAD BEEN LAID BY AMBASSADOR MURPHY. PRESIDENT ALSO RECALLED WITH FONDNESS FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, DAVID D. NEWSOM, AND INQUIRED IF AMBASSADOR WERE STILL IN DJAKARTA. AFTER OFFERING BRIEF BUT WARM THANKS FOR AMERICAN DROUGHT RELIEF ASSISTANCE, OULD DADDAH EXPANDED AT SOME LENGTH ON NATURE OF MAURITANIAN SOCIETY. HE CONTRASTED TENDENCY OF MAURITANIANS TO BE RESERVED WITH FRANKNESS AND OPENNESS OF AMERICANS. THEN, AND LATER AT SMALL INFORMAL DINNER AT HIS RESIDENCE, PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF HIS PERSONAL STAFF RECALLED WITH EVIDENT PLEASURE INSTANCES OF ASSISTANCE AND HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO THEM BY ORDINARY AMERICANS DURING VISITS OR ASSIGNMENTS IN US.

2. EMPHASIZING THAT MAURITANIA IS A NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY, OULD DADDAS SAID IT IS SATELLITE OF NO ONE. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS ONCE A TENDENCY TO RELY ON FRANCE, HE DECLARED THAT THIS IS NO LONGER THE CASE. WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS, PRESIDENT ASSERTED THAT MAURITANIA IS NOT RPT NOT THE PRIVATE HUNTING PRESERVE OF FRANCE. HE THEN ADDED THAT WHILE MAURITANIA WILL NOT COME UNDER WING OF A MAJOR POWER, NEITHER WILL IT ALLOW ITSELF TO FALL UNDER TUTELAGE OF RELATIVELY STRONGER POWER IN AFRICA OR MIDDLE EAST.

3. OULD DADDAH RESERVED MAJOR PORTION OF HIS REMARKS FOR MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM WHICH, HE SAID, IS "PRE-OCCUPATION" OF MAURITANIA. HE BEGAN BY NOTING THAT ALTHOUGH MAURITANIA AND US HAVE NO BILATERAL PROBLEMS, MIDDLE EAST IS ONE AREA WHICH POLICIES OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES DIVERGE. OULD DADDAH PRESENTS RELATIVELY BALANCED VIEW OF PAST HISTORY
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AND RESENT STATUS ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM CONSIDERING HE IS CHIEF OF STATE OF ACTIVE MEMBER OF ARAB LEAGUE. HE EXPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGED SUFFERING OF JEWS IN EUROPE AT HANDS OF HITLER AND NAZIS, BUT THEN HIGHLIGHTED CURRENT SUFFERING OF PALESTINIANS. PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED HUMAN DIMENSION AS OPPOSED TO POLITICAL SIDE OF MID EAST PROBLEM. ALTHOUGH OULD DADDAH NEITHER DENIED NOR ADMITTED EXISTENCE OF ISRAELI STATE, HE REFERRED TO

THREE PARTIES IN DISPUTE--ARABS, PALESTINAIANS, AND ISRAELIS. HE NOTED THAT IN SPITE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S BEST EFFORTS, SECRETARY HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO BRING ABOUT A SOLUTION. HE THEN SUGGESTED, IN VIEW OF SPECIAL US RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL, THAT USG SHOULD "IMPOSE A SOLUTION ON ISRAEL."

4. I RESPONDED THAT USG IS FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT IMPOSED SETTLEMENT IS NOT RPT NOT VIABLE SOLUTION; THAT IN OUR VIEW ONLY A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT CAN BRING PERMANENT PEACE. (I ALSO REMINDED PRESIDENT THAT ANY IMPOSED SOLUTION WOULD BY DEFINITION BE IMPOSED SIMULTANEOUSLY ON ALL PARTIES.) STRESSING SERIOUSNESS OF OUR PURPOSE AND OUR COMMITMENT TO FINDING SOLUTION TO THIS LONG-STANDING AND DIFFICULT PROBLEM, I POINTED TO PLEDGE PRESIDENT FORD MADE IN HIS APRIL 10 FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS TO CONGRESS THAT US WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE MAJOR EFFORT FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST. NOTING THAT US FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT STEP BY STEP APPROACH IS ONLY FEASIBLE WAY TO RESOLVE SUCH COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT PROBLEM, I EMPHASIZED THAT SECRETARY'S INTENSIVE PERSONAL EFFORTS HAVE ALREADY PRODUCED IMPRESSIVE RESULTS, AND THAT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE TOWARD EVENTUAL SOLUTION. I SUGGESTED THAT APPARENT BREAK-DOWN FOUR WEEKS AGO HAD IN FACT TURNED OUT TO BE ONLY A PAUSE IN NEGOTIATING PROCESS, AND POINTED TO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER'S UPCOMING VISIT TO US. I CONCLUDED THAT USG REMAINS HOPEFUL THAT NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT CAN STILL BE WORKED OUT. PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE WAS "HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL," AS IF TO RECALL AND REINFORCE HIS CONVICTION THAT IMPOSED SOLUTION WAS ONLY MEANS TO DESIRED END.

5. PRESIDENT MENTIONED INDOCHINA IN CONTEXT OF
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INTERNATIONAL ISSUES ON WHICH US AND MAURITANIA DO NOT AGREE, BUT QUICKLY DISMISSED SUBJECT AS "PROBLEM WHICH IS RESOLVING ITSELF."

6. AT ONE POINT IN CONVERSATION, OULD DADDAH EMPHASIZED HARSH DESERT ENVIRONMENT IN MAURITANIA. COMPARING TOPOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE OF MAURITANIA WITH CERTAIN AREAS IN SOUTHWESTERN US, HE NOTED THAT AMERICAN INGENUITY AND TECHNOLOGY HAD TURNED DESERT INTO COMFORTABLE AREA IN WHICH TO LIVE AND WORK. IN CONTRAST, MAURITANIA HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO MAKE DESERT HOSPITABLE. I TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER ASSISTANCE OF EMBASSY IN OBTAINING SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL EXPERTISE OF PRIVATE AMERICAN FIRMS TO ADVISE AND HELP GIRM PUSH FORWARD ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. OULD DADDAH REPLIED THAT HE LOOKED

FORWARD BOTH TO CONTINUATION OF US GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE
AND TO COOPERATION WITH PRIVATE AMERICAN COMPANIES.HANDYSIDE

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